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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of a statement made on 6 May 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama concerning the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos AROSEMENA A.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/50.

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ANNEX

Statement made on 6 May 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama concerning the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Republic of Panama notes with growing concern the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to withdraw from that Treaty.

Disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular are the cornerstones of Panama's international policy. This is demonstrated by the disbandment of its armed forces and its participation in the aforementioned Treaty and in the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

We consider that being a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and complying fully with its provisions would be in the best interests both of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the international community. The Government of the Republic of Panama therefore urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to move towards general and complete disarmament, in keeping with the world-wide trend, and, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to maintain its facilities under the IAEA safeguards system.

Panama supports the statement which the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made as depositaries of the Treaty, calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reverse its decision.